

This leads to the obvious question of how it was that ICE or DHS was able to project such a rise in border crossing by children this year.

Because of this, I have sent a letter to DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson and Acting Director of ICE, Thomas Winkowski, demanding information as to how their agencies may have anticipated the recent and dramatic rise in the number of unaccompanied alien children that are crossing the southern border into the United States illegally.

Mr. Speaker, this unprecedented humanitarian crisis at our border must be resolved, and I fear that promises of even more unilateral executive actions from this President will only make the problem he has created even worse.

We must get to the bottom of how this crisis happened, how it can be prevented from happening again, and how we can finally secure our Nation's problem of securing our porous borders.

IN HONOR OF MY SISTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to our great country.

As the fireworks went off and we celebrated Independence Day, July Fourth was a reminder of the men and women across this country and throughout history that have dedicated their lives to freedom, faith, and their families.

We had a wonderful time with a majority of my family, but I was reminded the day following the Fourth of July that this is not just about a place where we talk about policy. It is really about people.

I got a call that my sister, who is fighting a different kind of fight—a fight against cancer—was moved to a hospice wing. Truly, as I went to visit her, she reminded me, Mr. Speaker, that it is not about policy, but it is about people.

Today, as she fights for her final breath, I want to take a personal opportunity to tell the few that are gathered here—and perhaps this is only for an audience of one—that an older brother is proud of his sister. He is very thankful for the opportunity that he has had these last 52 years to know her.

Lord, as we look at the fight against cancer, it affects every single family—perhaps every single Member that is here—and there is nothing much that we can be thankful for, other than the time that it permits us to say the things that we should have said long ago.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I stand before this body to thank many of the Members who have been praying for my sister, but mainly to say that I am proud to be her brother and to serve this country, where we can gratefully express our appreciation in a free and unselfish way.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 19 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DENHAM) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

As the House reconvenes, we ask Your blessing upon deliberations informed by the experiences and interactions of the Members with their constituents.

We thank You for the time to be together with family and friends as our Nation celebrated 235 years of being a marvelous experiment in the self-governance of a people brought together by ideals and trusting in the ability of a free people to govern themselves in justice and peace.

Mindful of this great heritage, and the hard work and sacrifices of so many American ancestors to us all, may the Members of this people's House deliberate in good faith, mindful not only of short-term interest, but of their place in history, and of the tremendous responsibility to govern wisely for a bright future for our Nation.

May all that is done this day, in the wake of our national celebration, be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FOXX led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

CONGRATULATING RANDY ERICKSON

(Mr. YOUNG of Alaska asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to recognize and thank Mr. Randy Erickson, a constituent from Kodiak, Alaska.

Recently, on behalf of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's International Foundation, he traveled from Kodiak, Alaska, to South Sudan. While there, Mr. Erickson repaired and serviced power generators for the two utilities that provide these towns with electricity. This work is part of the Electrification Sustainability Program in South Sudan, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

One project has evolved into a self-sustaining municipal electric cooperative serving approximately 1,300 consumer members. The other project also serves approximately 550 customers, including household, commercial enterprises, public institutions, and non-governmental organizations.

After the 2005 peace agreement in South Sudan, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association International Foundation sent a team of experienced engineering and management staff to establish the first electric cooperative, and later to build two more rural utilities in other areas.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association International team provided training at these utilities to strengthen the competency of their directors, management, and employees.

Civil unrest broke out again last December, and many people were evacuated. Recently, USAID and the State Department began approving travel for its employees and partners to South Sudan, and Mr. Erickson volunteered his time and skills for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association International Foundation to help ensure that, despite the unpredictable situation, the people in these areas could still have electricity.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Mr. Erickson for his hard work.

SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL

(Mr. ISRAEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, once again, as so many times before, the people of Israel are under missile attack from the terrorist group Hamas in Gaza, with 300 rocket attacks since June—150 just over the past few days—forcing children into shelters, with the promise of more violence rained on Israel. This is the same Hamas that has formed a unity government with the Palestinian Authority.

Mr. Speaker, some things are clear. When rockets are fired on Israel, Israel will defend its people. When Hamas chooses violence, Israel will protect its people. When Hamas commits itself to the eradication and extermination of Israel, Israel will do what it must to ensure its survival.